

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) An automatic transmission sump filter assembly in fluid communication with the inlet of an automatic transmission fluid pump comprising:

(a) a filter housing having a base portion with a planar bottom and a filter chamber, an inlet through the base portion planar bottom in fluid communication with the sump and in fluid communication with the filter chamber, and an tubular outlet member portion angularly extending from the base portion and defining an outlet in fluid communication with the filter chamber and the inlet of the automatic transmission fluid pump, wherein the tubular outlet member portion includes one or more stiffeners extending along the tubular outlet member portion and terminating before the outlet member portion to form an end thereof;

(b) at least one outlet sealing member disposed on the outlet member portion and engaged against the end of one or more stiffeners of the outlet member, wherein the outlet sealing member is in sealing engagement with the outlet member and adapted for sealing engagement with the automatic transmission fluid pump inlet;

(c) filtration material forming an envelope;

(d) a plastic filter element, removably disposed in the filter chamber, having at least one edge of the filtration material envelope embedded therein and at least one shoulder adapted to receive at least one sealing member; and

(e) at least one sealing member disposed in the filter element shoulder, wherein the sealing member is in sealing engagement with the filter housing and the filter element, whereby the filter chamber is divided by the filtration material, filter element, and sealing member into a clean transmission oil chamber that directly communicates with the outlet and a dirty transmission oil chamber that directly communicates with the inlet.

15. (Amended) A sump filter assembly in fluid communication with the inlet of a pump comprising:

(a) a housing having a base portion with a planar bottom, one or more stand off members extending generally parallel to the planar bottom and adapted to engage the sump, and a chamber, an inlet through the base portion planar bottom in fluid

communication with the sump and in fluid communication with the chamber, an tubular outlet member portion angularly extending from the base portion and defining an outlet in fluid communication with the chamber thereby defining a fluid flow path between the inlet and outlet through the chamber, and an access hole; and

(b) a filter element disposed through the housing access hole, the filter element comprising:

(i) a plastic member having a frame and at least one sealing member retaining shoulder,

(ii) filtration material, with a portion of the filtration material embedded in the plastic frame,

(iii) at least one plastic rib attached to the plastic member, wherein a portion of the filtration material is embedded into the rib, and supporting the filtration material, and

(iv) at least one sealing member disposed against the sealing member retaining shoulder and sealingly engaging the housing wall in the housing chamber, whereby the filter element is disposed in the fluid flow path between the housing inlet and outlet to thereby filter sump fluid.

16. (Amended) The sump filter assembly of claim 15 wherein the tubular outlet member portion includes one or more stiffeners extending along the tubular outlet member portion and terminating before the outlet member portion to form an end thereof, and further comprising at least one outlet sealing member disposed on the outlet member portion and engaged against the end of one or more stiffeners of the outlet member, wherein the outlet sealing member is in sealing engagement with the outlet member a portion of the filtration material is embedded into at least one plastic rib.

26. (Amended) The sump filter assembly of claim 25 wherein the tubular outlet member portion includes one or more stiffeners extending along the tubular outlet member portion and terminating before the outlet member portion to form an end thereof, and further comprising at least one outlet sealing member disposed on the outlet member portion and engaged against the end of one or more stiffeners of the outlet member, wherein the outlet sealing member is in sealing engagement with the outlet

~~member a portion of the filtration material is embedded into at least one plastic rib, and the plastic member, at least one plastic rib, and the end wall member are monolithically molded plastic.~~

32. (Amended) The sump filter assembly of claim 31 wherein ~~the tubular outlet member portion includes one or more stiffeners extending along the tubular outlet member portion and terminating before the outlet member portion to form an end thereof, and further comprising at least one outlet sealing member disposed on the outlet member portion and engaged against the end of one or more stiffeners of the outlet member, wherein the outlet sealing member is in sealing engagement with the outlet member a portion of the filtration material is embedded into at least one plastic rib, and the plastic member, at least one plastic rib, and the end wall member are monolithically molded plastic.~~

37. (Amended) The sump filter assembly of claim 36, wherein the filter element further comprises an end wall member attached to the at least one plastic rib ~~with a portion of the filtration material embedded into the end wall member.~~

38. (Amended) The sump filter assembly of claim 37 wherein ~~the tubular outlet member portion includes one or more stiffeners extending along the tubular outlet member portion and terminating before the outlet member portion to form an end thereof, and further comprising at least one outlet sealing member disposed on the outlet member portion and engaged against the end of one or more stiffeners of the outlet member, wherein the outlet sealing member is in sealing engagement with the outlet member a portion of the filtration material is embedded into at least one plastic rib, and the plastic member, at least one plastic rib, and the end wall member are monolithically molded plastic.~~

40. (Amended) The sump filter assembly of claim 15 wherein the housing is a monolithic housing, ~~and the tubular outlet member portion includes one or more stiffeners extending along the tubular outlet member portion and terminating before the outlet member portion to form an end thereof, and further comprising at least one outlet sealing member disposed on the outlet member portion and engaged against the end of one or more stiffeners~~

of the outlet member, wherein the outlet sealing member is in sealing engagement with the outlet member.